

My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word. —Psalms 119:25.

Editorial Page of The Mountaineer

A New Money Making Crop — Aromatic Tobacco

Here is a great opportunity for the farmers of Western North Carolina. An article by Mr. J. A. Few in the December issue of the Farmers Federation News gave many of the facts about this crop. It appears that if proper equipment is secured and if proper care is given in the growing and curing, a gross income of \$700 or more per acre may be obtained. This is the kind of crop that many a farmer in Western North Carolina has been looking for.

The experimental work on the crop has been done by Duke University and by the extension services and experiment stations of South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. Its practicality has been proven by farmers under actual farm conditions. This crop seems well adapted to our mountain counties. It has these advantages:

1. High cash return per acre. If the crop is well cared for, a cash return of \$700 per acre is a conservative estimate. New methods of growing aromatic tobacco make this look like a very promising crop. Improvements in aromatic production include the use of automatic transplanters, curing on wire rods instead of the string method, the use of heat in the curing process, and the numerous shortcuts in baling the leaves. The use of artificial heat removes a lot of the risk involved in curing the leaves resulting in a much higher quality leaf that invariably brings a higher price. Growers using these curing units have averaged more than \$1.00 per pound during the past several years. The leaves are small, and little strenuous labor is required. So youngsters in their teens can do lots of the work.

2. No fear of over-production. There is a demand for many millions of pounds of aromatic tobacco right here in the United States. Very little of this aromatic tobacco is being produced at the present. So here is a crop with no danger of over-production in the near future.

3. No allotment required. There is no allotment required for the growing of aromatic tobacco. Many a farmer in the mountains would like to grow burley tobacco, but it has been impossible because he could not get an allotment. This is a chance to get in on the ground floor of the growing of aromatic tobacco.

4. It is a summertime crop, and the market is in August and September and the full cash return comes in the summer.

5. This crop can be grown on comparatively poor soils. That is, the farmer can use his best bottoms for growing corn and other crops and grow aromatic tobacco on his poorer soils. It would be well to get the advice of the county agent on the location for the crop. The market opens the first of August. —Farmers Federation News.

Is There To Be No End?

Somehow or other we had never even thought of "toll road" and the Blue Ridge Parkway in the same breath, but here it is, with plans to make motorists pay a special fee for the use of this wonderful scenic highway that was built with their tax dollars in the first place.

We have never cared for toll roads or toll bridges anyway, whether government owned or privately owned. There is just something about paying a fee for the privilege of driving about this wonderful country of ours, that goes against the grain. Yet in the case of super highways or bridges constructed by private money, we can understand the necessity of a toll until the state or federal government buys it or builds another to answer the same purpose. But charging a motorist a toll for driving along a scenic highway which his tax money paid for in the first place seems to us to be the height of something or other.

As we understand a story concerning this scenic toll business, the tourist who perhaps is from a distant place will be taxed with approximately as much for one trip as the more or less local resident will be taxed all year around. Yet the tourist from distant states—whether it be Florida or California — has paid equally for the road's construction, for federal money went into its building.

Seems to us it is about time to call a halt to taxing everything in sight. We'll all agree that taxes are needed, and we pay our income tax and various other levies without more than normal grumbling. But looks like here of late that there is never going to be any end to the tax on different things. And when they start using a person's money with which to build something and then charge him a fee to use that which his money built, they are going too far.

But we reckon there will never be an end to it. In our own State they are hollering for more tax on cigarettes, which have for years borne one of the heaviest taxes of anything around. And they are muttering through their beards about a tax on soft drinks, although we don't know how they figure anyone is going to drop five and 3/4 cents in a slot machine.

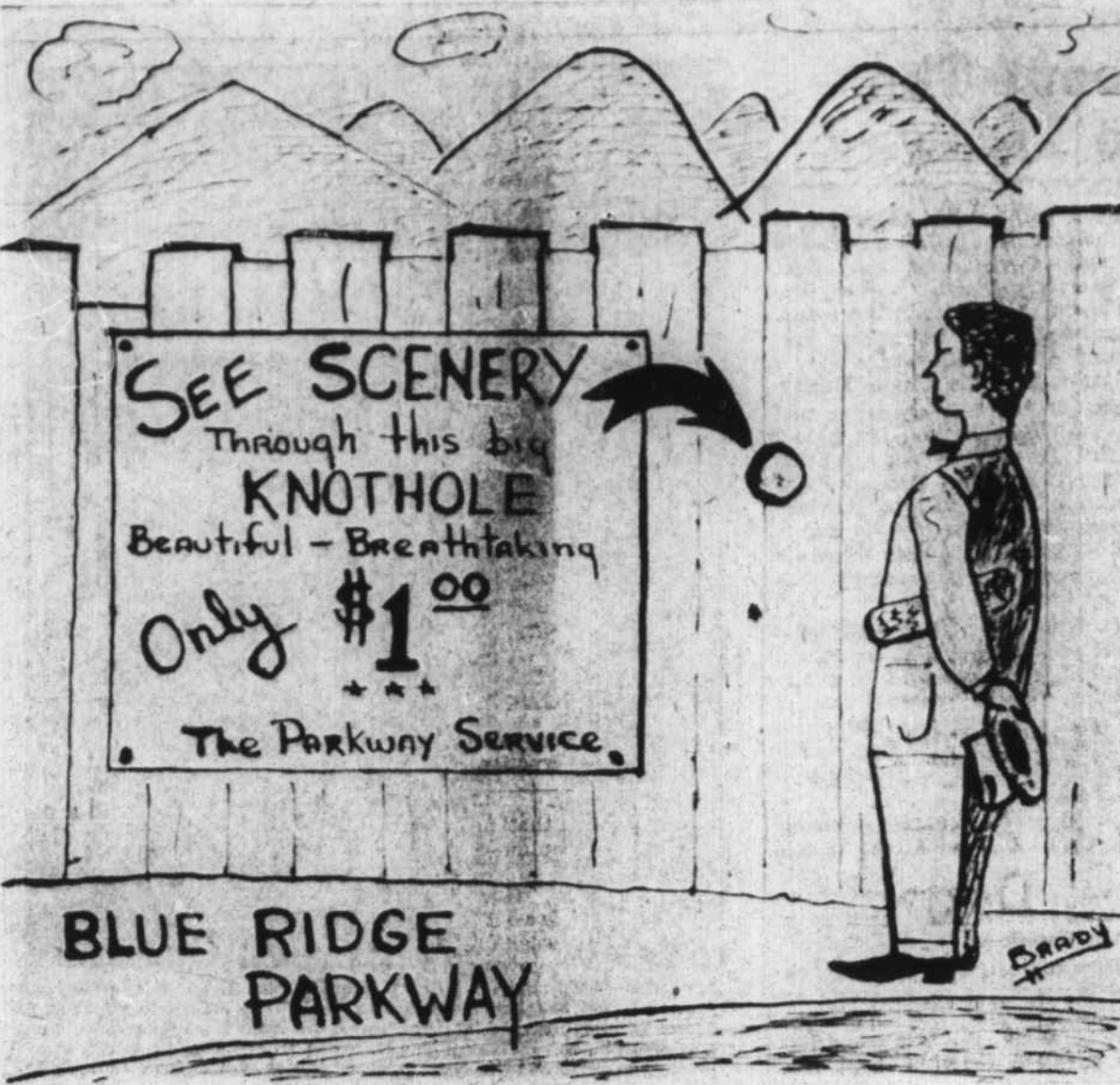
Taxes are necessary, and if it takes a tax on this or that commodity, then we suppose we'll have to go along. But when they go to charging a fee to see the scenic grandeur that God meant to be free to all, then we're ready to kick like blazes.—Elkin Tribune.

From Ranch To Table

Pork used to be the consumers favorite meat in this country. But two years ago beef took over the leadership, and its sales now lead those of pork by a substantial margin.

We Americans have, happily, become conditioned to having any cut of beef available whenever we want it. All we have to do is walk to the butcher shop and make our choice. Nothing is simpler. But the production and distribution machine which sees to it that those cuts of beef are waiting for us is far from simple.

A feature story in a recent issue of Life shows the major steps involved in getting beef to the consumer. It observes, "To satisfy the demand for more and better-grade beef the meat industry has evolved a complicated but smooth flowing production line." First comes the rancher, who sells his steers to an agency man. Then they are sold to the feeder, who keeps them on concentrated rations for five or six months, during which time they gain two pounds a day. Next the commission man enters the picture, buying the fattened steers and selling them to the packers. Packers butcher and process the meat, and then it goes to the retailer, the final link in the chain between ranch and dining table.



By John P. Brady, news editor of The Franklin Press

Looking Back Through The Years

20 YEARS AGO Roosevelt Ball is planned as brilliant social event at Canton High School. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rose arrive from Cincinnati to visit the latter's parents' Dr. and Mrs. B. F. Smathers. Fred and Paul Martin go to Atlanta for convention of Frigidaire dealers. W. A. Hyatt, chairman of the board of commissioners, goes to Raleigh to attend conference regarding legislation for the county.

Highland Flings

By Bob Conway

If a toll is placed on the Blue Ridge Parkway in May, the action probably won't force many users of the mountain highway into bankruptcy. But we'll all lose something more valuable than money—freedom, that is—when one of the few remaining "open roads" in this country goes under the surveillance of the toll collectors.

The wonder of the Parkway lies not only in the wonderful highland panoramas it opens up, but also in the fact that motorists can enjoy this beauty without the distraction of trucks, billboards, roadside joints, red lights, and stop signs.

The Parkway is designed solely for recreation—in contrast to other highways which serve as race tracks, advertising mediums, freight routes, and, too often, death traps.

All Americans love freedom, but, somehow, this intangible heritage has seemed to be most highly prized in the mountains of this nation.

For instance, there's the motto of West Virginia—"The Mountain State"—which proclaims in Latin "Montani Semper Liberi" ("Mountaineers are always free").

The freedom and the simplicity of the Blue Ridge Parkway are entirely in keeping with the spirit of the North Carolina and Virginia mountains. Tolls would mean the end of the last remaining "open road" in this part of the country.

Although tolls are essentially distasteful, Western North Carolinians probably would agree to paying them if it were assured that the money collected would be used for the maintenance and further development of the Parkway.

But since such collections would have to go into the government's "general fund," our dollars may just as easily be used to finance a Senate investigation of juvenile delinquency in Upper Tanganyika.

Collecting a toll into the Great Smokies Mountain National Park would not be too great a task, but on the Blue Ridge Parkway, with its many entrances, the job would become extremely difficult for Parkway employes and irritating to motorists.

Life is arduous enough these days without subjecting ourselves to further complications and harassment. Let's hang on to the one of the few really free things remain.

Keep the Parkway free! Recently a Waynesville man, despite strenuous objections from his

10 YEARS AGO Hazelwood Cannery will double capacity according to J. E. Barr, general manager. 2nd Lt. Paul W. McElroy is awarded silver navigation wings and commission in the graduating class at Selman Field, Monroe, La. Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Siler observe 25th wedding anniversary. Miss Sarah Louise Leatherwood accepts government position in Louisville, Ky.

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS

WASHINGTON — One of our greatest Presidents, Woodrow Wilson, who was an authority on our system of government, once said that Congress in Committee is Congress at work. When a bill or resolution is introduced by a Member of Congress, it is referred to one of the Congressional Committees for study and recommendation.

REGULAR COMMITTEES The Senate has 15 regular Committees. During the present week, the Senate assigned its members to the several Committees. As a general rule, a Senator is made a member of two Committees. A few members are assigned to three Committees.

ASSIGNMENTS In my judgment, my colleague, Senator W. Kerr Scott, and I were rather fortunate in our Committee assignments. Senator Scott was placed on the Committee on Agri-

Rambling 'Round

By Frances Gilbert Frazier

What has happened to the world anyway? Well, probably nothing has happened to the world but to its peoples. There has been a haze of fear and confusion that makes it hard to see clearly. We seem to be in a sodden fog of discord and suspicion.

During the overdose of snow last week, the children were delighted that were their elders. But one little girl wanted of it, and showed her distaste in no unmistakable terms. Last was a visitor from Florida and the white stuff was an unknown to her, and something she had no desire to add to her education.

Sometimes eyes are more emphatic than eyes in saying. During the overdose of snow last week, the children were delighted that were their elders. But one little girl wanted of it, and showed her distaste in no unmistakable terms. Last was a visitor from Florida and the white stuff was an unknown to her, and something she had no desire to add to her education.

"Mary, Mary, quite contrary, How does your garden grow? Just let me look in the seed box And then I'll let you know. If it lives up to what it says, And just as advertised; If the things grow as pictures show, Gosh! won't I be surprised!"

culture and Forestry, the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; and I was assigned to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Government Operations and the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

CHAIRMEN The Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services is Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia, who is well and favorably known through-

Inside WASHINGTON MARCH OF EVENTS

Prosperity During 1955 Administration Concived Labor Secretary Expansion in Em

WASHINGTON — The Eisenhower administration is counting the nation swings into the new year with economic auguring good times throughout 1955. Labor Secretary Mitchell notes expanding employment in such key industrial

The Federal Reserve Board is taking cognizance of the plans to allow the money market to remain but to exercise due precautions against inflation. There will be a constant on sales and production figures, and any industrial output gains will mean liberal credit.

Corporate dividends for 1954 hit well over a billion, almost nine per cent above the all-time high, recorded in 1953. The which have encountered hard going in recent are anticipating a sizable traffic increase. This, of course, would mean a boost in spending—and more jobs.

Secretary Mitchell • TVA—You can expect President Eisenhower propose a new method next year for financing Tennessee Valley Authority—and TVA supporters are likely the President.

Up to now, of course, TVA has been financed out of appropriations by Congress. Mr. Eisenhower may suggest that they start selling revenue bonds to the public.

Friends of TVA—who have been critical of almost every President has done in regard to the authority since he came White House—seem pretty certain to go along with his proposal. They will do so because Congress each year had grown reluctant to appropriate all the money that TVA feels it needs for the power output. A public financing plan would end the battles over money, allow TVA to expand and produce all the it can sell.

In this way, too, private power combines—such as the Dixie utilities group—would have no reason for stepping into the Valley. TVA boosters like that idea best of all.

ENVOY TO INDIA—Senator John Sherman Cooper of Tuckey, who was defeated for re-election by former Vice President Alben W. Barkley, appears to be the odds-on favorite for the ambassador to India. Other possible candidates include Dr. Ralph Bunche, Nobel Prize winner and a top United Nations official. However, former State department adviser and United States delegate to United Nations, seems to have the inside track. One factor is that George V. Allen, the retiring ambassador, has been nominated to be assistant secretary of State.

FIELDS CASE—The United States will take no more interest in the case of Noel and Heita Field, the American couple asked for asylum in Communist Hungary after pressure from London helped effect their liberation from Red imprisonment. Actually, the Fields' decision to stay behind the Iron Curtain was no surprise to State department officials. They had been convinced that the Fields had strong ties in the Communist country.

However, the United States did file several protests against the couple's imprisonment, and did work hard for their freedom on the grounds that the two were American citizens and entitled to protection as such. The American government would have been interested in seeing the Fields about life behind the Iron Curtain and certain matters, though it is felt in high government circles that in any case, could add little to what is already known.

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They'll Do It Every Time By Jimmy Hatlo. A cartoon showing a man in a suit talking to a woman in a dress. The man says: 'I WANT A LITTLE INFORMATION—IT WON'T TAKE LONG.' The woman replies: 'YOU KNOW WHAT BROTHER SAID—JUST TAKE DOWN THE NUMBER OF THE SET WE LIKE, AND HE'LL GET IT FOR US.' The man says: 'HEY, MAC—CAN YOU SOLDER THIS LITTLE THING? I'M FIXING MY OWN SET.' The woman replies: 'WE WANT TO BORROW A SET FOR THE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ANNUAL PARTY.' The man says: 'THEY OUGHT TO DONATE A SET—THINK OF ALL THE PUBLICITY THEY'LL GET.' The woman replies: 'MY HUSBAND GOT THESE TUBES FROM A FRIEND—WOULD YOU TEST THEM FOR ME?' The man says: 'WONDERING WHEN YOU'LL MAKE A BUCK IN THE TV STORE YOU JUST OPENED.' The woman replies: 'THANKS AND A TIP TO THE LADY NEXT TO YOU.'

LAST WORD IN HELL BOMB PRODUCTION. A cartoon showing a large bomb with a lit fuse. The bomb has a label that says: 'THEY'RE DEADLY CHEMICAL WEAPONS—THREAT TO ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET.' The bomb is falling from the sky.